

MINUTES OF NRVBA MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2015

1. Tonia Moxley gave a presentation on top bar hive beekeeping.

Her reasons for using top bar hives:

Less expensive to get started. Less expensive over time. Easy to build.
Lighter, easier on the back.

Top bar hives are a very old style of hive:

First removable frame hives

Used in Greece before 1600.

Clay long hives in use in Egypt today. Also Kenyan top bar hives.

Perhaps not a good choice for packages.

Perhaps more susceptible to mite infestations. Not confirmed.

Most commonly used beekeeping techniques work.

Construction plans/illustrations available at www.biobees.com/build-a-beehive-free-plans.php or www.cbrp.org/SDBluebirds/PhilChandlerTBHPlans.pdf

Also, Les Crowder's book, available on Amazon: "Top-Bar Beekeeping: Organic Practices for Honeybee Health"

2. Jim Hill showed one of his candy boards and answered questions.
3. Jerry Borger gave a short briefing on how the classroom session of the Beginning Beekeeper Course went. In short, it went very well.
4. Jerry brought up the problem in Chesapeake with beekeeping being illegal. Richard and Jim Hill briefed the group on the NRVBA proposal that has been submitted to the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors.
5. Nellies Cave has been booked for the picnic.
6. The Heritage Days event needs volunteers to represent the club, August 22.
7. The Second Annual Winter Honey Festival in Richlands will take place on February 14.
8. Some questions came up about posting items to the new Google Groups site. Sue can answer when she becomes available.
9. Richard mentioned the Honeybee Symposium in Abingdon, VA. March 7.

10. Radford Library wants a speaker on bees and beekeeping. Speaker chooses a weekday evening, 6-8 pm time slot available. NRVBA has visual aid materials and equipment. Volunteer needed.

11. We need programs for the Sept, Oct and Nov meetings. Ideas welcome.

12. We will try again this year to have field days at the apiaries of volunteer member hosts.

13. The meeting ended with a discussion of winter survival problems and the raffle.

Jim Hill, Vice President NRVBA